

Message Text

PAGE 01 SOFIA 01990 131315Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 202

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1990

FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (INGERSOLL, ROBERT S.), PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIA SITREP THREE (BACKGROUND FOR INGERSOLL VISIT)

REF: A. SOFIA 1936 B. SOFIA 1980 C. SOFIA 1845

1. PERSONALITY CULT, BULGARIAN STYLE. ALL AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED TO BULGARIA (AND THIS INCLUDED A SIZEABLE CONTINGENT FROM MOSCOW, BELGRADE AND OTHER PLACES) WERE TAKEN ON AN ALL-DAY EXCURSION SEPT 12 TO ZHIVKOV'S NATIVE VILLAGE AND SURROUNDING SIGHTS. LATTER INCLUDED A PLANT FOR SEMICONDUCTORS AT BOTEVGRAD, AND A MODEL FARM. THE REMARKABLE THING ABOUT PRAVETZ, ZHIVKOV'S VILLAGE, IS NOT THAT HIS HOUSE OF BIRTH HAS BEEN RECONSTRUCTED AND PLACED IN A SMALL PARK, OR EVEN THAT THE VILLAGE NOW HAS AN ENORMOUS SPORTS HALL (ADEQUATE FOR HOLDING A CONVENTION), BUT THAT THE PRAVETZ "MOTEL" ALSO HAS A PLEASURE DOME FOR FORMAL OCCASIONS WHICH BOGGLES THE MIND.

2. SHAPED SOMEWHAT LIKE THE SHWE-DAJON PAGODA IN RANGOON, AND SITUATED IN AN ARTIFICIAL LAKE, THIS EDIFICE MUST HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY ZHIVKOV'S STATE VISIT TO IRAN IN THE COURSE OF WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SOFIA 01990 131315Z

HE SAW THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE AT PERSEPOLIS FOR VISITING ROYALTY. ENORMOUS SILK CANOPIES CASCADE INSIDE FROM THE PEAK OF THE "PAGODA", AND ENTERTAINMENTS WERE OF EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE PROPORTIONS (THOUGH IN BETTER TASTE). THAT MAKING THE PRESIDENT'S BIRTHPLACE

INTO A SORT OF SHRINE DURING HIS LIFETIME IS OF DUBIOUS TASTE DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE OCCURRED TO ZHIVKOV; AND IF ANYONE AROUND HIM THOUGHT SO HE APPARENTLY LACKED THE COURAGE TO SAY SO TO NUMBER ONE.

3. ZHIVKOV GRATEFUL FOR US ASSISTANCE. DURING HIS TALK TO AMBASSADORS SEPT 12 (SEE ABOVE), ZHIVKOV MENTIONED THAT SIZEABLE COPPER DEPOSITS HAD BEEN DISCOVERED IN SOFIA DISTRICT AND THAT PICTURES RECEIVED FROM USG, TAKEN BY EARTH RESOURCE SENSING SATELLITE, HAD SHOWN THAT DEPOSITS ARE EVEN LARGER THAN HAD BEEN REALIZED. TYPICALLY ZHIVKOV ADDED THAT HE HAD ALSO ASKED THE USSR FOR SIMILAR PICTURES "WHICH HADN'T ARRIVED YET BUT WOULD NO DOUBT ARRIVE SOON" (SINCE ANY CAPABILITY CREDITED TO THE US MUST BE MATCHED BY AN EQUAL CAPABILITY OF THE USSR).

4. BULGARIA AND CSCE. FULL TEXT OF TODOROV SEPT 8 SPEECH (REF B) IS NOW AVAILABLE, AND ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE HE SAID: "OUR STATE AND THE ENTIRE BULGARIAN PEOPLE ARE FIRMLY DETERMINED TO WORK WITH UTMOST ZEAL AND CONSISTENCY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRINCIPLES AFFIRMED BY THE CSCE (DOCUMENT)." ZHIVKOV IN HIS ADDRESS TO AMBASSADORS SEPT 12 USED SIMILARLY CATEGORIC LANGUAGE; AND OF COURSE FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV TOLD AMBASSADOR AUGUST 28 (REF C) THAT GOB "WILL STRICTLY OBSERVE ALL THAT WE HAVE SIGNED AT HELSINKI;" SO THERE ARE MAY PEGS TO USE FOR DISCUSSION OF WHAT BULGARIA REALLY INTENDS TO DO ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO BASKET III MATTERS. NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR.
HERZ

CONFIDENTIAL

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